

Northwest School for Hearing Impaired Children, and an active fund-raiser for the Lifelong AIDS Alliance. The two experiences that she is most proud of are working on the board of the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center and serving as Past Board Chair of Children's Hospital. These contributions to our community make her more than worthy of this award and our recognition.

Ms. Behnke's work is inspiring, and her words are encouraging. She said, "Take care of your home. Look around at this wonderful, wonderful place that is yours and mine. And if you haven't already, find a little corner of it to give your heart to."

On behalf of the people of Washington State, I would like to thank Ms. Behnke for her time, energy and many years of dedicated service.●

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN VAN PEEBLES

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in a year when we have seen such terrible news about New York, we do well to remind ourselves of all the good things that come from that great city.

One such thing was the awarding of Chevalier in the Legion D'Honneur to my friend, Melvin Van Peebles, by the Consul General of the Republic of France on April 24 of this year. The award was made to Mr. Van Peebles because of his work as an author, a producer, and a director of award-winning films.

I have known Melvin for years, and I know him as a man of conscience, talent, erudition, and eclectic friendships. I have always considered myself honored to be one of his friends. The man who first introduced me to Melvin was my good friend, Dr. Henry Jarecki, of New York, and he and Gloria Jarecki hosted the investiture at Gramercy House in New York City.

I ask consent to print in the RECORD the comments made by Dr. Jarecki at that event, and to add my own congratulations to Melvin Van Peebles for an award justly deserved.

The comments follow:

REMARKS OF DR. HENRY JARECKI

Back in the fifties, while Melvin was becoming well-known in America, I had been out of the country. So it is no surprise that when Katie McGee first mentioned the name Melvin Van Peebles some thirty-five years ago, I knew so little about his work that I expected to meet a Dutchman. It was indeed some years before I knew who I was dealing with but in the meantime he had become a close friend who I could hang out with and gab about philosophy, somebody who was an advisor and when needed, a fellow mischief-maker. Gradually, I got to see and know all about the famous Sweetback movie and his other films and I read and saw his plays, especially *Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death* and *Don't Play us Cheap*, two of the ones I think are among the great works of American literature. *Waltz of the Stork*, a musical I backed, was not one of the great

works. Otherwise I would be rich today. But we reflected on a lot more plays, too, including the Bessie Smith piece called the *Champeen* that we argued about for five years and still have to make.

Close friends sometimes disagree—we solved that by making bets. One bet he lost made him work for me on Wall Street for a year during which he became the first Black trader on the American Stock Exchange. Not surprisingly, he wrote a book about it as he does about almost anything he does. That book, called *Bold Money*, introduced many nonprofessionals to the world of security option trading. He always writes books about what he does. He makes movies about the making of movies and he writes books about the "making of the making of a movie" movie. Happily, all of this piques his viewers' and readers' interest and makes him a bunch of money.

But he's made a lot more than movies, plays, and money. He has made a number of wonderful children, all of whom I've had the pleasure of hanging out with over the years, Megan, Mario, Max, and maybe more. Megan has the beauty and the wonderful heart she had when she worked at Mocatta and Mario has become a distinguished motion picture actor and director himself. Very few people know that one of the steps of his professional life, maybe the step that taught him all there was to learn about acting before he went to Hollywood was working as a gold trader for me at a company called Mocatta.

The Van Peebles children have been friends of my children and Melvin himself has helped each of my children, most recently my son Eugene, who made a film called *The Opponent* based loosely on Eugene's early life friendship with Mike Tyson. Melvin's most recent French film, *A Belly Full*, was not the reason for this Legion of Honor award but was its occasion.

Even before making a great name in America, Melvin had become well-known in France, partly for his book and movie, *Story of a Three-Day Pass* which had won many awards there, and throughout his life he has remained an American bridge to France, even having one French son, Max, who has helped him work on many of his movies. And so this clearly American icon has gradually become a French figure of the arts as well.

We are all honored to be here tonight with Melvin Van Peebles to help celebrate his receiving this award from Consul-General Richard Duque who honors us with his presence. I personally have in my own very modest film-making career achieved only one thing: when I, following in Melvin's footsteps, was making a movie about Cuban music in Havana with my friend Gary Keys, I managed to buy some Cuban cigars and also a wonderfully appropriate humidifier in which to keep them. And so, Melvin, I take pleasure in presenting you with this unusual-looking humidifier and the accompanying box of Cuban cigars. If you choose to give some of these cigars out to some of your guests here, feel free to do so: I have a second one upstairs. And those who worry about smoking Cuban cigars—and I'm not one—can always say the words of Melvin's friend Pat Leahy, the Senator from Vermont, who tells us that he cannot be criticized for burning Castro's crops.

Thank you all for coming.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 2:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 70. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1552. An act to extend the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act through 2006, and for other purposes.

S. 1573. A bill to authorize the provisions of educational and health care assistance to the women and children of Afghanistan.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4507. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an arrangement with the United Nations regarding the reciprocal debt forgiveness contemplated by the legislation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-200. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island relative to maintaining the public institutions status of D.C. General Hospital; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, D.C. General Hospital, a 108-year-old health care facility located in our nation's capital, will stop operating as a full-service public hospital as a result of the Mayor of Washington, D.C.'s plan to privatize the hospital, eliminating a safety net for thousands of disadvantaged people who otherwise would not have access to basic health care services; and